

Application No. 10/056,571
Date of Response 1/26/2004
Reply to Action of 10/27/2003

REMARKS

This Amendment is being entered in response to the Office Action of October 27, 2003.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 6, 8, and 9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent format.

The Examiner has substantially allowed claim 4 and its dependent claims. While the applicant does not necessarily agree that the remaining claims are unpatentable, to facilitate prosecution of this application, the applicant has amended claim 1 to re-present claim 4 in independent format. Claim 4 has been canceled, as it is now redundant with respect to claim 1. The Examiner has previously acknowledged that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. The applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is now clearly allowable. As claims 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, on independent claim 1 (formerly dependent claim 4), such claims are also clearly allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If, for any reason, the Patent Examiner believes that a telephone conference with applicant's agent might in any way facilitate the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call such agent.

Respectfully submitted,
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By 

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